GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3112
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
DUTY FREE TRADE AT AIRPORTS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand projected by Asia Pacific Travel Retail Association(APTRA) dealing in duty free trade at airports and the nature of security concerns for ban imposed on liquids, aerosols and gels(LAGs);

(b) the current international practice and norms applied on carriage of liquor,perfumes,and deodorants,etc, covered under LAGs;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the ban and develop a mechanism to allow duty free trade at airports without compromising with the security requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) European Union Commission(EUC) have issued Regulation No.915/2007 dated 31.7.2007 regarding validation of security arrangements and procedures for carriage of Liquids,Aerosol & Gels (LAGs) by outbound transfer passengers entering European Union from other countries including India.Asia Pacific Travel Retail Association(APTRA) have requested Government of India to enter into some agreement with European Union (EU) by which the LAGs purchased at Indian Airports Retail Outlets by outbound transfer passengers can be carried in their hand-baggages in compliance with EUC Regulation.

(b): International Civil Aviation Organisation in December2006 issued an advisory conveying the following security control guidelines for screening LAGs to Member States for implementation:

(i) All liquids should be required to be carried in containers with a capacity not greater than 100ml(or the equivalent in other volumetric measurements,e.g. fluid ounces). Liquids carried in containers larger than 100ml are not to be accepted,even if the container is only part-filled;

(ii) Containers should be placed in a transparent re-sealable plastic bag of a maximum capacity not excceding 1 litre.The containers must fit comfortable within the transparent plastic bag, which should be completely closed;

(iii) The plastic bag should be presented for visual examination at the screening point.Only one trasparent plastic bag per passenger should be permitted; and

(iv) Exemptions should be made for medications,baby milk/foods and special dietary requirements.An appropriate and proportionate means of verifying the nature of such liquids will need to be available.In addition,Member States were also to consider exemption in respect of liquids purchased either at airport duty free shops,or on board aircraft,on the condition that the liquid is packed in a sealed plastic bag that is both tamper-evident and displays satisfactory proof of purchase at airport duty free shops,or on board aircraft,on the day(s) of the journey for departing as well as transfer passengers.

(c)&(d): No,Sir.While India is seeking mutual reciprocal Agreement with EU to allow Duty Free trade at Indian Airports,as a signatory to ICAO Convention,and the Member State,India complies with the International Aviation Security Standards and Recommended Practices.